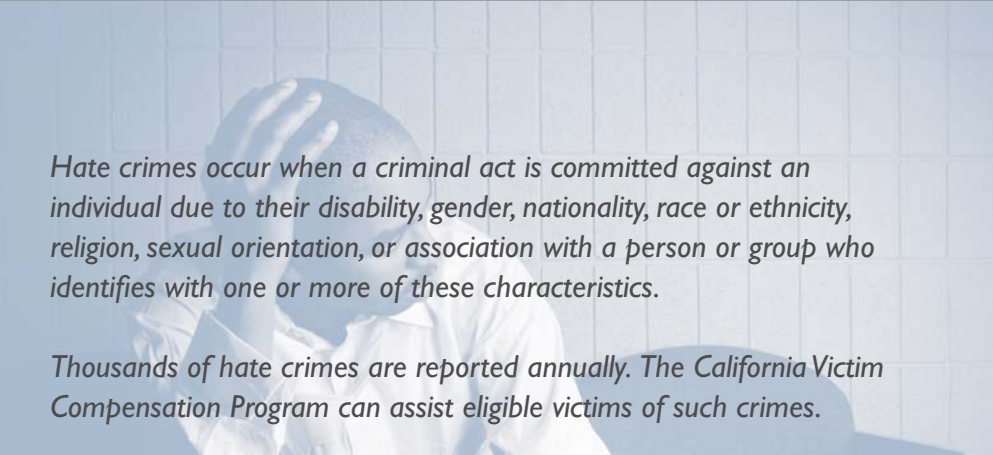




Help for Victims of Hate Crime

CALIFORNIA VICTIM
COMPENSATION PROGRAM





Hate crimes occur when a criminal act is committed against an individual due to their disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group who identifies with one or more of these characteristics.

Thousands of hate crimes are reported annually. The California Victim Compensation Program can assist eligible victims of such crimes.

What is the Victim Compensation Program?

The Victim Compensation Program (VCP) can help pay bills and expenses that result from certain violent crimes, including hate crimes. Victims of crime who have been injured or have been threatened with injury may be eligible for help from the VCP.

The VCP can help victims of hate crimes that occur in California as well as California residents who become victims while visiting other states or outside the country.

Additionally, people who suffer a monetary loss because of death or injury to a crime victim may also be eligible for compensation. These “derivative” victims can include:

- Spouses or Domestic Partners
- Children
- Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Brothers
- Sisters
- Grandparents
- Grandchildren

What Expenses Can the VCP Help Pay?

The VCP may help pay for expenses related to a hate crime such as:

- Medical and dental treatment
- Mental health services
- Income loss
- Funeral and burial expenses
- Loss of support, for dependents when a victim is killed or disabled because of a crime
- Home or vehicle modifications
- Home security
- Relocation
- Crime scene cleanup
- Childcare services, when a caregiver is killed or disabled because of a hate crime



What Expenses Cannot Be Paid By the VCP?

- Any expense not related to the crime
- Any expenses paid by insurance or another source of reimbursement or coverage
- Expenses for lost, stolen or damaged property
- Damages for pain and suffering

There are limits on how much can be paid for each loss. The program cannot pay any expense for a person who is on felony probation, on parole, in jail or in prison.

How Does a Victim Apply for Compensation?

There are four ways to apply:

- Contact the local Victim Witness Assistance Center. A victim advocate at the center can help victims complete and submit the application. The victim advocate can also help victims learn more about the criminal justice system.
- Call VCP Customer Service at **800.777.9229**
- Download an application at **www.victimcompensation.ca.gov**
- E-mail the VCP at **info@vcgcb.ca.gov**





When Submitting an Application, Remember:

- Include copies of crime reports, bills and receipts with the application.
- Send bills to the insurance company, workers' compensation carrier, or Medi-Cal right away. The VCP corresponds with such providers as needed to verify benefits and coordinate payment of bills.

How Does a Victim Qualify for the VCP?

In addition to being the victim of a qualifying violent crime, applicants must:

- Report the crime to the police, sheriff, child protective services, or some other law enforcement agency.
- Apply to the VCP within a year of the crime occurrence. If the victim is under 18 at the time of the crime, this limit does not apply. Rather the application must be submitted prior to their 19th birthday.
- Applicants/victims must cooperate with law enforcement during the investigation and prosecution of the crime. A victim cannot have participated in or been involved in committing the crime.
- Applicants/victims must cooperate with the VCP by providing the information needed to review the application.

Can a Victim Receive an Emergency Payment?

An emergency award can be obtained in certain situations. Emergency awards are made based on substantial hardship and the immediate need for payment.

How Does a Victim Apply for Compensation for Relocation Expenses?

The VCP can help pay moving expenses – such as first and last month's rent, deposits and temporary lodging – if a victim needs to relocate for their own safety or emotional well-being.

Relocation forms are available at www.victimcompensation.ca.gov. The local victim advocate can assist with this process.

Confidentiality of Claims

All claims filed with the VCP are confidential. Except as required by law, the VCP only discloses a victim or applicant's information with their written permission. If the applicant or victim is a child or incapacitated adult, the written permission must be provided by a parent, guardian or other person legally authorized to represent the applicant or victim.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**Victim Compensation and
Government Claims Board**

**P.O. Box 3036
Sacramento, CA 95812-3036**

800.777.9229

www.victimcompensation.ca.gov

e-mail: info@vcgcb.ca.gov

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Helping California Crime Victims Since 1965